

Application No.: 10/771,707

Art Unit: 1745

Docket No.: TOW-064

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REMARKS

Applicants amend claims 1, 3 and 6, and cancel claim 5. Claims 1-4 and 6-9 are pending, of which claim 1 is independent. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims define over the art of record.

Applicants note that the Examiner did not indicate acceptance of the drawings filed on February 4, 2004 in the Office Action Summary, and respectfully request the Examiner to confirm acceptance of the drawings.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner deems that claims 5 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the foregoing claim amendments, Applicants amend independent claim 1 to add the patentable feature of claim 5. In light of the amendments, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103 rejections of claim 1 be withdrawn. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 is requested in view of the above claim amendments.

Claims 2-4 and 6-9 depend upon claim 1 and add separate and patentable limitations to claim 1. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the dependent claims also define over the art of record.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejects claim 3 under U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite (Office Action, pages 2-3). Accordingly, Applicants amend claim 3 to recite "said first and second holding portions," and believe that the amended claim is in accordance with U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 3 is requested in view of the foregoing amendments to claim 3.